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TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12065 N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, CY

SUBJECT: *EVENING READING ITEM FOR THE SECRETARY - SEPTEMBER 21, 1979 - COUP IN CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE*

FOLLOWING IS EVENING READING ITEM WHICH WAS SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE WHITE HOUSE SEPT. 21.
QUOTE:

THE SEPTEMBER 20 FRENCH-SUPPORTED COUP IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE REINSTALLED EX-PRESIDENT DAVID DACKO, WHO WAS OUSTED BY BOKASSA IN 1966. EMPEROR BOKASSA WAS IN LIBYA AT THE TIME OF THE COUP. OUR EMBASSY REPORTS THAT ALL AMERICANS ARE SAFE, THAT FRENCH TROOPS CONTROL KEY POINTS IN BANGUI AND THAT DACKO HAS PROCLAIMED A REPUBLIC WITH HIMSELF AS PRESIDENT AND THE RESPECTED HENRI MAIDOU AS VICE PRESIDENT AND PREMIER. I PLAN TO INSTRUCT AMBASSADOR COOKE
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TO MAINTAIN NORMAL CONTACTS WITH THE NEW REGIME

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WE ARE REVIEWING OUR ANNOUNCED DECISION TO TERMINATE BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WILL IMPROVE NOW THAT THE ERRATIC EMPEROR HAS DEPARTED THE SCENE. UNQUOTE. VANCE

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